



Department of Justice

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FEDERAL ASSISTANCE TO REDUCE UNACCEPTABLY HIGH INCIDENCE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST NATIVE AMERICAN WOMEN

[Albany, NY] United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian congratulates the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, located along the northern border of New York, on its award of \$596,071 under the Department of Justice's 2012 Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS), through the federal Office on Violence Against Women. The funding will be used for a program titled Violence Against Women Tribal Government Training. The grant award coincides with national Domestic Violence Awareness month.

Mr. Hartunian recognizes that while the overall incidence of domestic partner homicides in New York State reduced slightly in 2010¹, the rate of violent crime victimization against Native American women is more than double that of women of other races.² In fact, Native women suffer from the highest rate of intimate partner violence, the highest rate of stalking, and the highest rate of rape and sexual assault.³

"This grant and the funding it brings will do much to help law enforcement and agencies serving the Saint Regis Mohawk Indian Reservation respond to, reduce, and ultimately prevent domestic violence against Native women," said Mr. Hartunian. "In these times of reduced resources and dwindling funding programs, it is heartening that the Reservation will receive these funds to address a type of violent crime disproportionately harming Native women."

Among other things, the funding will be used to train local law enforcement and prosecutors to improve services and responses to domestic violence, pay for a sexual assault advocate, and provide emergency intervention funds, which help victims when they have to flee their homes because of the violence.

"The United States Attorney's Office is committed to working with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe to promote public safety and combat domestic violence. We are collaborating with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Domestic Violence program and north country domestic violence task forces to use federal gun laws to remove and punish possession of illegal firearms in the homes of persons subject to a domestic violence order of protection. This can help prevent the escalation of violence, as well as assist in officer and child protective worker safety. Assistant United States Attorney Elizabeth Horsman, of our Plattsburgh Office, has been an integral part of developing responses to domestic violence against Native American women in this region," stated Mr. Hartunian. "We congratulate the Tribe on the award of this crucial funding."

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¹ 2012 New York State domestic violence Annual Report, 2010 Data

² American Indians and Crime, BJS Statistical Profile, 1992 - 2002

³ Full Report of the Prevalence, Incidence and Consequences of Violence Against Women, 2000